predominance; Drunkards, Lyars, and Adulterers by an enforſt obedience of planitary influence, and all that wee are euill in, by a diuine thruſting on; an admirable euaſion of whoremaſter man, to lay his gotiſh diſpoſition to the charge of Starres: my Father compounded with my Mother vnder the Dragons taile, and my natiuitie was vnder *Vrſa maior*, ſo that it follows, I am rough and lecherous: Fut, I ſhould haue beene that I am, had the maidenleſt ſtarre of the Firmament twinckled on my baſtardy.

Enter Edgar *Edgar*, and out hee comes like the Cataſtrophe of the old Comedy; mine is villanous melancholy, with a ſith like them of Bedlam; O theſe eclipſes doe portend theſe diuiſions.

Edgar. How now brother *Edmund*, what ſerious contemplation are you in?

Baſt. I am thinking brother of a prediction I read this other day, what ſhould follow theſe Eclipſes.

Edg. Doe you buſie your ſelfe about that?

Baſt. I promiſe you the effects he writ of, ſucceed vnhappily, as of vnnaturalneſſe betweene the child and the parent, death, dearth, diſſolutions of ancient amities, diuiſions in ſtate, menaces and maledictions againſt King and nobles, needles diffidences, baniſhment offriēds, diſſipation of Cohorts, nuptial breaches, and I know not what.

Edg. How long haue you beene a ſectary Aſtronomicall?

Baſt. Come, come, when ſaw you my father laſt?

Edg. Why, the night gon by.

Baſt. Spake you with him?

Edg. Two houres together.

Baſt. Parted you in good tearmes? found you no diſpleaſure in him by word or countenance?

Edg. None at all.

Baſt. Bethinke your ſelfe, wherein you may haue offended him, and at my intreatie, forbeare his preſence, till ſome little time hath qualified the heat of his diſpleaſure, which at this inſtant ſo rageth in him, that with the miſchiefe, of your perſon it would ſcarce allay.

Edg. Some villaine hath done me wrong.

Baſt. Thats my feare brother; I aduiſe you to the beſt. goe arm'd; I am no honeſt man if there bee any good meaning towards

wards you, I haue told you what I
ly, nothing like the image and he

Edg. Shall I heare from you a

Baſt. I doe ſerue you in this b
A credulous Father, and a brothe
Whoſe nature is ſo farre from doi
That he ſuſpects none; on whoſe
My practiſes ride eaſie: I ſee the
Let me if not by birth, haue land
All with me's meete, that I can fa

Enter Gonorill an

Gon. Did my Father ſtrike my
foole?

Gent. Yes Madam.

Gon. By day and night he wro
Euery houre he flaſhes into one g
That ſets vs all at ods; ile not ind
His Knights grow ryotous, and h
On euery trifell when he returne
I will not ſpeake with him, ſay I
If you come ſlacke of former ſeru
You ſhall doe well, the fault of it

Gent. Hee's coming Madam,

Gon. Put on what wearie negli
fellow ſeruants; i'de haue it com
him to our ſiſter, whoſe mind a
not to be ouerruld; idle old man
authorities that hee hath giuen a
are babes again, & muſt be vs'd
they are ſeene abuſd; remember w

Gent. Very well Madam.

Gon. And let his Knights haue
growes of it no matter; aduiſe y
from hence occaſions, and I ſha
ſtraight to my ſiſter to hould m
dinner.

Ente

Kent. If but as well I other acce

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE *King Lear* (STC 22292) LONDON, 1608 THE BRITISH LIBRARY (C.34.k.17